
Communists Explain Raids: Declare They Have Nothing to Conceal and Urge Working Class to Unite Its Forces

by Jack Carney

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Attributed to editor Jack Carney.

(The arguments presented by the Communists in their statement are based upon actual facts and whether the Communist Party is legal or illegal makes no difference. These arguments must be met by those in charge, not by the use of force, but by sound argument.

The Voice of Labor is NOT a Communist weekly, as much as our opponents would like us to be, in order that we might be repressed. But at all times it will defend those who are fought and opposed by the employing class. Any section of the workers, whether they belong to the Workers Party or any political party or industrial organization, will have access to our columns when the necessity demands that publicity be given to them. We regret we have not the space to publish in full the statement of the Communist Party. But we do urge all workers to rally their support. They belong to our class and because they are being brutally treated and persecuted by the employing class we feel that they merit the support of the entire working class. —Ed.)

Stating that they have nothing to conceal and urging the workers to look upon their persecution as a matter concerning all workers, the Communist Party, in a statement received by the *Voice of Labor*, further declares that the persecutions they are subjected to are but the “beginning and part and parcel of the persecutions which the whole of the working class of this country suffer.

Revolutionists, Not Bomb Throwers.

“We are revolutionists and not bomb throwers. We want to destroy the whole building of capitalist

society and not the building of some railway station,” they state in answer to those who style them bomb throwers and terrorists. “We are after the life of political and economic life of the bourgeoisie and not after the life of this banker or that government official. The road to the workers’ revolution does not lie in train wrecks and petty dynamiting feats, but in broad, huge mass actions, that is, through the organized mass movements of the organized workers.”

They protest against being described “as a small, sinister band in ambush.” They point out that the present capitalists will hand over their power to the workers as willingly as the British crown and feudal forces handed over their power in 1776. They state it would be ridiculous for them to attempt to bring together millions of workers into the struggle in a secret, concealed manner. “Why then an underground?” they ask. “Simply because the capitalists compel us to be an underground party,” they reply. They point to the numerous criminal syndicalist laws, deportation laws, etc. as justification for their being underground. They declare their willingness to fight in the open, but only the brutal persecution of the capitalists has driven them underground.

Under Military Dictatorship.

They point out the various incidents of the present struggle: the action of the government in its Supreme Court decisions; the fabricating of false stories with a view to incriminating workers; the use of armed force, with 15 states already using troops to crush the strike and the statement of Hoover that if

the strike is not settled in a week that the flag would be raised and Pershing placed in charge of the country. (This latter statement was verified by a story published broadcast in the Hearst press, under the pen of young Vanderbilt.) They state that all the foregoing incidents demonstrate that we are living under an open dictatorship — a military dictatorship.

“It is clearly no accident that Attorney General Daugherty,” they declare, “one week ordered the raids on the Communists, and the next week, by means of the most vicious, far-reaching, drastic injunction ever asked in a federal court in any labor dispute, restrained the railroad organizations from issuing instructions, statements, or suggestions to their members during the strike.

Urge Workers to Protest.

“The workers of America,” they go on to state, “must understand that the fate of the working class and the fate of the Communists are inseparable. This is self-evident. The Communists are not a group separate or indistinct from the working class. They are an integral part of the working class. The Communists are those workers who are conscious of the fact that in the struggle against the capitalist the workers must organize as a class.”

The statement concludes with an appeal to the workers to protest against the raids and arrests; to provide adequate defense for those arrested and to unite their forces against “our common enemy.”

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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